

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-25 cancelled

26. (new) A disposable hygiene article having an absorbing element component for storing body liquids, which may contain superabsorbent materials, the absorbing element component comprising:

a first area having a mass per unit area of absorbent material that increases in a transverse direction towards side edges of the hygiene article, wherein a storage capacity of a section extending in a longitudinal direction over 20 to 100 % of a length of the absorbing element component is substantially constant along said longitudinal direction.

27. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said section of constant storage capacity extends over 30 to 90%, 40 to 70 %, or 45 to 60 % of a length of the absorbing element component.

28. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component further comprises a second area having a mass per unit area of absorbent material which increases from a rear and/or front area of the hygiene article towards a crotch area thereof.

29. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area of absorbent material increases in said transverse direction by 30 to 200 %, 30 to 150 %, or by 50 to 120 %.

30. (new) The hygiene article of claim 28, wherein said second area of increasing mass per unit area of absorbent material of has a mass per unit area increase in said longitudinal direction of 50 to 500 %, 50 to 400 % or 100 to 350 %.
31. (new) The hygiene article of claim 28, wherein a maximum mass per unit area of said second area of increasing mass per unit area is larger than a maximum mass per unit area of said first area of increasing mass per unit area.
32. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area is separated from a center of a crotch area of the hygiene article.
33. (new) The hygiene article of claim 32, wherein two said first areas are provided, which are separated from a center of the crotch area of the hygiene article.
34. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area or a line of maximum mass per unit area of said first area extends in said longitudinal direction on both sides of the hygiene article over at least 15 % of a length of the absorbing element component.
35. (new) The hygiene article of claim 34, wherein said first area or a line of maximum mass per unit area of said first area extends in said longitudinal direction on both sides along side edge areas of the hygiene article.
36. (new) The hygiene article of claim 28, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area in said transverse direction and said second area of increasing mass per unit area in said longitudinal

direction are disposed in direct abutment to or overlapping with each other.

37. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein a width of the absorbing element component starting from a rear and/or front area of the hygiene article is reduced towards a crotch area.
38. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component is compressed to a substantially uniform thickness.
39. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein areas of increasing mass per unit area also form areas of increasing density.
40. (new) The hygiene of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component comprises at least two absorbing element layers.
41. (new) The hygiene of claim 40, wherein an absorbing element component has a substantially uniform mass per unit area.
42. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component has an absorbing element layer comprising cross-linked cellulose fibers.
43. (new) The hygiene of claim 26, wherein the hygiene article further comprises cuff elements extending substantially in a longitudinal direction and elevated at least in certain areas, said cuff elements forming lateral outlet barriers and being fixed at least along a cuff bottom line on a side of the article facing a user's body.
44. (new) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said cuff elements are guided at varying separations between cuff bottom lines.

45. (new) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said first area of larger mass per unit area comprises at least one partial area in which a mutual separation between said cuff bottom lines is larger than outside of said partial area.
46. (new) The hygiene article of claim 45, wherein said partial area is disposed outside of a central longitudinal section of the hygiene article and at a separation from a center of a crotch area of the hygiene article.
47. (new) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said cuff elements are guided such that said cuff bottom lines are disposed at a maximum separation from each other in said longitudinal direction.
48. (new) The hygiene article of claim 47, wherein said maximum separation is entirely within a portion of said first area.
49. (new) The hygiene article of claim 47, wherein said maximum separation between said cuff bottom lines is disposed in a front area and/or a rear area of the hygiene article.
50. (new) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component comprises a mixture of fibers and particulate superabsorbent materials.